

From the LONDON GAZETTE, October 6.
Text of a letter from Marshal Beresford to Viscount Wellington, dated Moimenta da Serra, 4th September 1810.

I have the honor to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a letter I have received from Col. Cox, late Governor of Almeida, and a copy of the capitulation of that place.

With whatever regret it was we witnessed the unexpected fall of that place, uninformed as we then were of the cause, I think the circumstance related in the Governor's letter of the unfortunate loss of his entire ammunition, and the injury sustained by the town and works, and loss to the garrison by the effects of the explosion, will prove sufficiently the impracticability of a protracted defence; and I regret to say the conduct of the Lieut. Governor (Tenente Roy) Francisco Bernardo da Costade Almeida, and of Major, commanding the artillery, Fortunato Joye Barreros, increased the difficulties occasioned by the explosion. The former had until the commencement of the enemy's fire acted with much zeal and propriety, but on that commencing shut himself up in bomb-proofs; and after the explosion, from personal fear and to avoid any further firing, took advantage of the consternation and confusion which must be ever attendant in such a case to counteract the Governor's attempt to hold out at least some short time longer. The Major of artillery, it appears, had acted well during the siege, but after the explosion appears to have added treachery to cowardice, and to gain favour with the enemy, communicated to him the real state of the garrison, and that it had no ammunition whatever left, which caused Marshal Massena to re-act the terms demanded by the Governor.

Until the unfortunate accident of the explosion of the mine, the garrison appears to have been in the best spirits, and in the best possible disposition and resolution to defend the town, and which they unanimously state their Governor's conduct inspired them as every officer and man gives the highest applause to his unremitting zeal and activity, encouraging all by his own example.

Your Lordship will see that it was of very little consequence what capitulation the garrison had got, as it is obvious the enemy would not have observed it, where it was his interest to break it, which will be witnessed by his having detained by force, and contrary to the terms of the capitulation, seven officers and 200 men from each of the three regiments of militia that were in the garrison, and this with the object of forming them into a pioneer corps.

The officers and soldiers of the militia regiments, to a man, continued to refuse to enter voluntarily into the service of the enemy, and the seven officers and 200 men of each regiment were detained forcibly. Such are the circumstances which have come to my knowledge of the conduct of the garrison of Almeida, and which I think it necessary to communicate to your Lordship.

Alden del Obispo, August 30, 1810.

SIR.—The painful task has fallen to my lot of acquainting your Excellency, that I was reduced to the necessity of surrendering the fortress of Almeida, which I had the honor to command, on the 27th instant, at ten o'clock at night, in consequence of the unfortunate explosion of the great magazine of powder in the castle, and the small magazines contiguous to it, by which dreadful accident I was deprived of the whole of my artillery and musket ammunition, with the exception of a few made-up cartridges which remained in some of the expence magazines on the ramparts, and 39 barrels of powder which were deposited in the laboratories.

Upwards of half of the detachment of artillery, and a great number of infantry soldiers, besides several of the inhabitants, were destroyed by the effect of this terrible explosion. Many of the guns were dismantled upon the ramparts, the works were materially injured, and a general dismay spread amongst the troops and inhabitants of the place.

In this distressing situation I received a letter from the Commander in Chief of the French army of Portugal, proposing to me that I should surrender the place to the French army under his command upon honorable terms, which, he said, he was ready to grant; I answered, that I wished to know the terms which he proposed; upon which the articles, of which I have the honor to send your Excellency a copy, were transmitted to me, and which, after using every effort in my power to obtain favorable terms, I accepted, with an exception in favour of the militia regiments. I hope my conduct on this trying occasion will meet your Excellency's approbation, and that I shall remain justified by the circumstances in the eyes of my country.

The Prince of Esling has been good enough to allow me to return to England on my parole, accompanied by Major Hewitt and Capt. Foley, of the 24th regiment, and we are now on our way to France, to embark from thence for a British port.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) W. COX.

BONAPARTE IN SEARCH OF A WIFE.

A letter from Petersburg (says the London Courier of September 12) positively affirms, that so far back as October 1808, during the interview with Alexander at Erfurth, Bonaparte asked, and was promised in marriage, a Russian Grand Duchess. It was not until entreaties, and even menaces, had failed to obtain the assent of this Princess, that he turned his views to the House of Austria. Several letters have passed between the Imperial Brother and Sister on this subject: one of these (we understand the last) we lay before our readers, in the language, *verbatim*, in which it has been transmitted.

LETTER.

"Sire—I implore the generosity, the humanity of

the most just of Princes, of the most beloved of brothers, and (permit me to add) of the dearest of friends.—These epithets are sincere; they are due to your Majesty, whose will shall always be a ready law to me in every thing where my conscience does not reproach my submission, and where dishonour (pardon Sire, if I err) would not be the consequence of obedience. I remember too well the lustre of my descent, ever to give posterity a cause of judging me unworthy of my ancestry.

As to the intended wife of a Napoleon, I repeat, Sire, my trembling heart would break before I reached the limits of his usurped dominions. His wounded pride would then seize with avidity such a catastrophe to embroil France with Russia, in accusing your Majesty as the author of the natural weakness of a sister. Yet, however, Sire, his vanity is interested to conceal a refusal, which he will neither forget nor forgive; but your Majesty may gain time to prepare sufficient means of resistance to the future vengeance of his violence and disappointment.

"Sire, to shew that my determination is not the rash act of a fickle and thoughtless girl, I am under the necessity of trespassing on your Majesty's goodness a little longer.

"Although the blood-stained annals of modern Europe form the private history of Napoleon Bonaparte, I have tried to become more intimately acquainted with the personal character of the man destined for my new Sovereign—for my future Lord and master.

"Alas! Sire, in the long catalogue of Bonaparte's exploits; not a single virtue is discovered that can extenuate his very numerous atrocities.—Alas! Sire, he was already an assassin, when I was only a child; and every year of my advancement towards womanhood records his fresh and shocking perpetrations. Has he not publicly boasted, in 1793, of having waded in the gore of the by him butchered Touloners? And do not his official reports of 1795 exist, in which he gloried in the massacre of thousands of men, women, and children, in the streets of Paris? Did he not, during 1796 and 1797, according to his own bulletins, destroy by fire and sword, many thousand peaceable Italians of all ages and both sexes, merely because they would not listen to his hypocritical cant of liberty and equality, and renounce their faith and their allegiance? Were not in 1798, the shores of the Mediterranean and the banks of the Nile inundated by him, perfidiously with the innocent blood of trusty allies? Who can be ignorant that in 1799 he both poisoned his own wounded soldiers in Syria, and slaughtered some thousand disarmed prisoners near Jaffa?—Having by fraud usurped the supreme power in France, did he not, during 1800 and 1801, after artfully alluring, treacherously imprison and cruelly dispatch numbers of the loyal inhabitants of La Vendee? Did he not, during 1802 and 1803, treat with similar barbarity his former accomplices the Jacobins and Republicans? Was it not in 1804, that he stabbed D'Enghien, strangled a Pichegru, and recompensed with the guillotine the heroic loyalty of a George, murders, which I have heard your Majesty yourself so often reprobate with words, and lament with tears of pity and indignation? Was not, in 1805, humble and obscure Palm shot by his order? Did he not, in 1806, inhumanly deny a Duke of Brunswick a grave, and sacrilegiously violate the tomb of Frederick the Great, thus equally insulting the dying and the dead? Was it not, during 1807 that hundreds of German and Swiss Patriots, captured on the banks of the Elbe, the Rhine, and the Danube, bled by his orders on the banks of the Seine, or perished miserably in pestilential Madagascar? Did he not, in 1808, seduce, betray and arrest, the Royal Bourbons of Spain?

"While he thus, in a public capacity, has violated all laws human and divine, has he ever ceased to be a most unkind domestic tyrant? Have not the mother who gave him birth, and the wife to whom he owes his advancement been equally subject to the most indelicate and brutal ill treatment? Notwithstanding the vices of the wife (with which he was well acquainted before marriage), ought he not to have respected the favours of his benefactress? As he can never hope to reap the same benefit from an union with a Russian Princess, can she expect to moderate his rage, to alter his perversity, or to escape the fury of his unmanly passions? Would it, besides, be no disgrace to the house of Holstein, were she to succeed the profligate mistress of a regicide in the embraces of a low sansculotte terrorist? Can any faith be placed in the promises of him whose whole life is a bold defiance to a Supreme Being, and evinces a sovereign contempt of moral man? Can any dependence be had on the words of an unprincipled despot, who has by turns professed himself a demagogue, a leveller, a Jacobin, a republican, an Atheist, a Deist, a Musselman, and a Christian? Will he, who mocks a divinity hesitate to trample upon the most just claims of a woman?

But excuse, Sire, the warm effusions of a provoked innocent mind, that has not learnt yet to disguise what it feels. Though not superstitious, I am inclined to consider as ominous, the very offer of an Imperial assassin to marry the daughter and grand-daughter of assassinated Emperors. If wrong, condescend Sire, to ascribe my conduct to its real cause—to an alarmed virtue, that never will, on any consideration, prostrate itself before any guilty favourite of an unjust fortune.

(Signed) CATHERINE.

"St. Petersburg, Jan. 25, 1809."

FROM A LONDON PAPER.

The following Address to the Citizens of Rome, was issued by Lucien Bonaparte, and privately distributed two days after he sailed; but was immediately suppressed by an official order:

"To the Roman Citizens.

"In the bosom of retirement, occupied with no other cares than those of contributing to the happiness of my

family and my neighbours, and tasting on Rome's classic territory, all that pure refined bliss which a mind imbued with a love of the arts can enjoy, I was assailed by the ruthless hand of despotism, rendered still more heavy by its being that of a brother; still more galling, as he owes his life, and his honours to my intrepidity.

This infernal mandate was, that I should repudiate an endeared wife, and desert those children whom Nature identifies with my existence; that I should ascend a throne created by the most horrible perfidy, and unite my efforts to despoil and subjugate the yet unconquered part of the globe.

"Citizens, I had no choice between unconditional submission and immediate flight. I did not hesitate. The Tiber, on whose banks I had vainly hoped to pass my allotted term of life, received me on her bosom, and she will waft me, I trust, in safety to those shores which dreadful when sought in hostility, become a sure place of refuge to the destitute and the oppressed.

"Citizens, farewell; my gratitude is all I can leave behind. May your chains sit light upon you; or rather may you soon cease to bear any, by the intervention of Omnipotent vengeance on tyranny and oppression.

"LUCIEN BONAPARTE."

FROM AN ANTIGUA PAPER.

ST. JOHN'S, OCTOBER 11.

Accounts from Guadaloupe, we are sorry to state, announce the discovery of a Conspiracy to regain the possession of that Island for its former master, Bonaparte. From what has transpired it appears clear that a number of the principal merchants have countenanced this act of treason to the British Government, and for which offence a very considerable number of them have received orders to leave the Colony within a fortnight. The discovery is said to have been made in consequence of the apprehension of a young man in the employ of Elbers & Crafts, of St. Bartholomews, under circumstances that led to a suspicion of his being engaged in an attempt to foment disturbances, in whose possession a number of papers containing plans, proclamations, &c. together with a very considerable sum of money, supposed to be intended to bribe the soldiery, were found. In what manner the insurrection was to have been conducted we have not learnt, but it was evidently the intention of those concerned to have restored the Colony to the dominion of Bonaparte, if it had succeeded.—Accounts received some time back from Mr. Jackson, announced the arrival in America of a number of French emissaries, whose ultimate destination seems to have been to sow the seeds of commotion, wherever there was the least probability of success. It is not improbable that the armaments which have for some time past been preparing at Toulon, the Scheldt and the Texel, have some connection with these treasonable efforts.

BOSTON, NOVEMBER 23.

In our last we described the movements and positions of the belligerent forces in Portugal, down to the 7th of October, at which time Lord Wellington's army extended from the Tagus to the Atlantic, his left occupying the most advanced port, at Alcabaco, near the coast, 45 miles from Lisbon.

On Wednesday, Mr. Jarvis, our late Consul at Lisbon, arrived in this port, in the brig Constellation, Capt. Leach, in 29 days passage. Sailed the 23d of October by permission, an embargo having been laid on all shipping, on the 8th. Mr. Jarvis has furnished us with information as to the state of things, until the time he sailed.

Lord Wellington, still keeping his right at Alhandra, on the Tagus, had concentrated his forces, so as to bring his left to Mafra, making a line from east to west of 15 miles, covering Lisbon, which is but about as far in his rear, and having the French in front, in a line nearly parallel, at the distance of eight miles, the left of Massena's army extending to Villa Franca on the Tagus. Thus situated both armies are fortifying themselves, and as the ground is mountainous between the Tagus and the ocean, both armies occupy advantageous positions for defence.

Three days before Mr. Jarvis sailed, Lord Wellington was joined by the Marquis Romana, with 10,000 Spanish troops; and at the same time, received a much more important reinforcement, of 10,000 British troops; 5000 of whom were from England and Ireland, and the other 5000, two regiments from Cadiz, two from Sicily and one from Gibraltar. The whole number of British troops were now estimated at about 50,000; and 30,000 allies. Massena's army is rated at 70,000, whose cartridge boxes are much better supplied than their bread baskets.

When the French army passed through Coimbra, after the retreat of Lord Wellington, they left in that city, a garrison of 500 men.

The Portuguese General Miranda, advanced from the north, with a body of Portuguese militia, took possession of Coimbra, and made the 500 Frenchmen prisoners. As soon as this was known to Massena, he detached 1000 men, who re-occupied the City, and it remained in possession of the French, when the Constellation sailed.

There is something awful and interesting, in the contemplation of such powerful bodies in close array, quietly awaiting some adventitious event, to give the signal for slaughter, when probably the question of a nation's freedom or slavery will be decided. Of the issue, we can give no opinion. It appears that the crisis was considered at hand, for not only the British transports and navy were preparing to receive the English and their friends, in case the contest should prove unfortunate; but all the merchant shipping, in the river, were detained, and engaged to take one fourth of their cargo, and one fourth the number of passengers they could carry, on account of government.